

Amendments to the Claims:

No amendments are made to the claims at this time. This listing of claims is provided for convenience and replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method comprising scanning consecutive data wedges on a data storage medium for defects by transducing a readback signal from said wedges beginning at a wedge non-adjacent an angular index reference position and identifying a defect location on the medium from said readback signal.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the scanning step further comprises generating a multi-bit informational record having at least one bit composing an address of a selected data wedge in which the defect location is disposed.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the scanning step further comprises generating a second multi-bit informational record having at least one bit composing an address of the defect location within the selected data wedge.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the scanning step further comprises a prior step of writing a 2T oscillating pattern to the data wedges.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data storage medium comprises a rotatable magnetic recording disc.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the scanning step further comprises generating a sequence of discrete time sample values from the readback signal and identifying the defect location in relation to said sequence.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of subsequently formatting the data storage medium to form a plurality of user available data sectors in the data wedges for subsequent use in storing user data, wherein a user available data sector is not formed over the defect location identified during the scanning step.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data storage medium further comprises angularly spaced, radially aligned servo wedges between which the data wedges are disposed, the servo wedges comprising servo fields that define a plurality of concentric tracks on the medium, and wherein the scanning step further comprises sequentially positioning a data transducer over an initial track to scan the data wedges thereon, advancing the data transducer to the next adjacent track and commencing scanning the data wedges thereon without waiting for the angular index reference position to reach the data transducer, and repeating until all of the plurality of concentric tracks on the data storage medium have been scanned.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:
a data storage medium comprising consecutive data wedges and an angular index
reference position defined thereon; and

a media scan controller which scans the data wedges for defects by transducing a readback signal from said wedges beginning at a wedge non-adjacent the angular index reference position and by identifying a defect location on the medium from said readback signal.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the media scan controller further generates a multi-bit information record having at least one bit composing an address of a selected data wedge containing the defect location.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the media scan controller further generates a second multi-bit information record having at least one bit composing an address of the defect location within the selected data wedge.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the media scan controller prewrites a predetermined sequence of data comprises a 2T oscillating pattern to the data wedges prior to scanning the data wedges for defects.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the data storage medium comprises a rigid, rotatable magnetic recording disc.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising an interface controller which subsequently formats the data storage medium to form a plurality of user available data sectors in the data wedges for subsequent use in storing user data, wherein a

user available data sector is not formed over the defect location identified by the media scan controller.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the data storage medium further comprises angularly spaced, radially aligned servo wedges between which the data wedges are disposed, the servo wedges comprising servo fields that define a plurality of concentric tracks on the medium, and wherein the media scan controller sequentially positions a data transducer over an initial track to scan the data wedges thereon, advances the data transducer to the next adjacent track and commences scanning the data wedges thereon without waiting for the angular index reference position to reach the data transducer, and repeats until all of the plurality of concentric tracks on the data storage medium have been scanned.

Claims 16-20 have been cancelled.